

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 81

By Miller

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. Kenneth D. Higgins for his honorable and astute service to Cleveland and Bradley county and to congratulate him upon receiving the M.C. Headrick Free Enterprise Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kenneth D. Higgins, Chief Executive Officer of Santek Environmental Incorporated, is one such estimable person who holds the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; he has recently been selected to receive the M.C. Headrick Free Enterprise Award, the highest honor given by the Cleveland and Bradley County Chamber of Commerce at its annual meeting to honor community leaders for their accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, this ambitious man recognized local government's need to professionalize landfill operations without relinquishing control of vital infrastructure and because of this, founded Santek Environmental in 1986. Working under the authority of local governments, Santek's mission is "... to provide the best environmental solutions with a commitment to cost-efficiency and environmental integrity."; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Higgins believes that the success of Santek is attributed to his high priority on such Christian principles as honesty, integrity, faith, fairness, stewardship, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, since 1986, Mr. Higgins has watched his company grow from six employees to 200 employees across the Southeast and Midwest, with sixty employed locally. Mr. Higgins is proud to have built a successful company without compromising his values; and

WHEREAS, Santek secured its first landfill agreement in 1987, followed by a second agreement in 1988. In 1994, the company assumed operation of its third Tennessee landfill and secured a ten-year renewal of its second landfill agreement; and

WHEREAS, throughout the company's rapid and impressive growth, Mr. Higgins made the decision to maintain Santek's corporate headquarters in his native town of Cleveland, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, this self-taught businessman established Santek Engineering PC, a full-service engineering company, to serve as a helpmate to Santek Environmental landfill personnel. A year later he assumed operation of Santek's fourth Tennessee-based landfill; and

WHEREAS, this community leader founded his second collection subsidiary, Waste Services of Tennessee, in 1999 and assumed operation of Santek's first industrial owned landfill; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Higgins' prominent company ranked forty-eighth among the nation's top 100 solid waste companies and thirty-second among privately held companies last year. Santek's revenues continue to grow by nearly one-third annually; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable man has impressively assumed operation of numerous landfills in many states, including North Carolina, Mississippi, Texas, Georgia, and Ohio; and

WHEREAS, not only has Mr. Higgins successfully made his mark in a specialized industry, he is a quiet, unassuming leader in the community as well. Due to the success of his company, Mr. Higgins is able to channel financial resources into a variety of community programs as well as give of his time and resources to many regional, national, and international endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Higgins is an extremely ambitious person who epitomizes the characteristics needed to win the M.C. Headrick Free Enterprise Award, one who reaches out to his community with the necessary ideals to make it a prosperous and thriving place for all who reside therein; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Higgins is wholly committed to the noble precept of contributing leadership through the development and implementation of ideas, and has confirmed repeatedly

what it means to struggle through adverse conditions for the good of one's community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Mr. Higgins for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee, congratulate him upon receiving the M.C. Headrick Free Enterprise Award, and salute his unswerving commitment to leadership and the advancement of his community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.